

The *spicula* consist of four forms :—

(a) Shaped like a pair of opera-glasses, or like two globose bottles or carafes united at their sides and having two necks. The sides bear large tubercles and the mouths of the necks are set with small conical tubercles.

(b) A cylindrical staff with two whorls, each of four thick rays ; the projecting ends of the staff make up a ten-rayed spicule. The ends of the rays are tuberculated. Contracted and irregularly-formed spicules of this type frequently occur.

(c) A few cruciform spicules of various shapes, but essentially composed of four arms at right angles, meeting at the centre with equal acute-angled bases.

(d) Monaxile spicules, cylindrical, fusiform, or clavate, all more or less tuberculated. These belong to the polype-cells.

LII.—Description of a new Species of Hare from Algeria.

By G. E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON.

THE following is a description of a new hare which was obtained by Dr. F. D. Drewitt at Col. de Sta, in the Aures Mountains, near Biskra, in Algeria, in March 1896. In its size and form and in the peculiar narrowness of its skull this hare is very similar to *Lepus kabylicus*, de Wint., but it is remarkably different in its conspicuously lighter coloration ; it appears to be a desert form of *Lepus kabylicus*, in which all the rich cinnamon tints of that species are replaced by pale grey or yellowish buff.

Lepus pallidior, sp. n.

In size, form, and skull similar to *L. kabylicus*, but with the coloration conspicuously lighter on all parts of the body. The colour of the underfur* in *L. kabylicus* is rich cinnamon, but in *L. pallidior* pale grey or yellowish buff. The white of the belly of *L. pallidior* is clearer, the cinnamon of the flanks almost replaced by pale buff, the chin white, the cheeks light grey instead of rufous, the nuchal patch and the fringes of the ears a much lighter buff, and on the back the cinnamon annulations of the hairs of *Lepus kabylicus* are replaced by annulations of a silvery-grey colour. The size of the black tips of the dorsal hairs is very much reduced, so that the back

* Except the bases of the hairs in both species, which are bluish.

of the animal presents to the eye a mixture of silver-grey and black, in which the former colour predominates, whereas in *Lepus kabylicus* the mixture is one of cinnamon and black, the black predominating.

The type was presented by Dr. Drewitt to the Cambridge Museum, the authorities of which have been good enough to cede it in exchange to the British Museum, where it is now no. 98. 10. 14. 1.

LIII.—*Note on the European Dormice of the Genera Muscardinus and Glis.* By G. E. H. BARRETT HAMILTON.

THE British Museum of Natural History has recently received a small collection of North-Italian mammals, purchased from Cav. Sigismundo Brogi, of Siena, and presented to the Museum by Dr. Edward Hamilton.

The dormice of the genera *Glis* and *Muscardinus* included in this collection are of very great interest and represent two very distinct and hitherto unnoticed species, for permission to describe which I am indebted to the kindness of the Museum authorities.

The following is a description of the two new species. The first, a *Muscardinus*, is a most beautifully coloured little animal. I propose to call it

Muscardinus pulcher, sp. n.

The general coloration is rich chestnut, but the species is larger and finer than the average *M. avellanarius* of France or England, all the colours being far more vivid than in the latter species, and the tail more bushy. The colour of the upper surface of the body and of the anal region is rich chestnut, the colour being deepest and richest on the back and tail and paler on the flanks. The underside is white, stained with cream-colour, purer on the breast and upper neck, and there is a sharp line of demarcation between the colours of the upper and under sides. This line of demarcation passes along the cheeks just above the upper lip to just below each eye, where the cream-colour is interrupted on each side by a weak band of chestnut passing from under each eye to the inner surface of the fore legs, and cutting off a patch of the cream-colour just in front of each ear. On the remainder of